

**Lake Winnebago 2004-2005 Regulation Strategy**  
**November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

On October 20th, 2004 the Corps of Engineers hosted our annual Regulation Meeting in Appleton where we discussed the past year's operations and laid out our plans for water level management for the coming year. At the Regulation Meeting we emphasized the fact that there are many interests that enjoy the benefits of the water resources in the Fox-Wolf River system including recreational boaters, hydropower, commercial and industrial water supply, and municipal water supply users. Furthermore, Lake Winnebago provides very important flood control benefits, supports a critical ecosystem, provides important benefits to riparians along the shoreline, and facilitates recreational uses throughout the region. Our role as the federal agency responsible for regulating Lake Winnebago water levels is to provide a balanced, unbiased approach to making regulation decisions. We do not regulate the water levels on Lake Winnebago to favor one interest or use over the other.

The target water levels were outlined in the meeting for this coming year. This plan is based on the Linde Plan that has been used since the 1980s. The lake will be maintained at 2.5 feet Oshkosh datum through early January. In January, we will begin the winter drawdown once ice cover is established. The drawdown is critical to create flood control storage in the reservoir. The extent and timing of the drawdown will be established during a conference call in early January with experts and interested parties from the local area.

When the ice cover has broken up in the spring, we will begin the spring refill, raising the lake level to a target level between 2.4 and 2.7 feet Oshkosh datum by May 1 and a target level between 2.7 and 3.0 feet by June 1. The target level will be a minimum of 3.0 feet Oshkosh datum beginning July 1. Runoff from snow melt and spring rains can raise the level of the lake very quickly in the spring. The lower target levels are designed to avoid excessively high water levels.

We will continue to work closely with the Wisconsin DNR, National Weather Service, other agencies, and local County and City officials, to monitor conditions and adjust our regulation decisions as necessary depending on basin conditions. In addition, we will continue our effort to inform the public through our web site and local media. Feel free to contact us if you wish to be added to our mailing list to receive notices of future meetings.

We encourage all interested parties to participate in the open dialogue that we conduct at the annual Lake Winnebago Regulation Meeting. Participants can gain an understanding of the many issues affecting water management decisions in the Lake Winnebago basin.

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